



Applying for an F-1 Student Visa

US Educational
Advising Center
Lagos
Nigeria



What is an F-1 Visa?



- Permission to apply for admission into the U.S. as a student
- Permission to be a full time student at the college or university specified on your I-20 for the degree and duration specified only
- A non-immigrant visa

F-1 visa is not ????



- Not permission to work off campus
- Not permission to be part-time student
- Not permission to primarily work and then study on the side
- Not a one-way ticket to immigrate to the US



Qualifications needed to apply for an F-1 visa



- Admission from a U.S. institution with a valid I -20.
- Strong and appropriate academic preparation
- Adequate finances to sustain yourself as a student for duration of studies
- Strong command of English language

How do you apply for an F-1 visa in LAGOS?



- APPOINTMENTS:
 - All student visa applicants must have a scheduled appointment for an interview
 - Complete visa appointment form
 - Use a courier office to send form, include return courier
 - Appointments duration(it may approximately four to six weeks for appointments to reach you)

Step 1: Get your I-20



- What is needed to get your I-20
 - Admission
 - Acceptance
 - Proof of funding for school
- Security of your I-20
 - Have it sent by courier when at all possible
 - Check immediately for accuracy
 - SEVIS – what is it?
- Review of Sample I-20



Step 2: Pay your visa fee



- Payment may be done at FSB International Bank Plc Lagos Island - Awolowo road, Ikoyi (Personal valucard are acceptable)
- Pay the APPLICATION FEE of US \$100.00 or **currently 14,000.00 Naira** -- payable by ValuCard ONLY.



Step 3: Prepare Documents for Visa Interview

- Complete visa application forms
 - DS-156 (Electronic application form)
 - DS-157 (Male applicants between the age of 16 and 45 only)
 - DS- 158 (All student applicants)
- Academic Documents
- Financial Documents
- Show proof of Ties to Home Country

Prepare Documents for Visa Interview Contd.

- Photos (5cm x 5cm) - white background, no glasses or head covering
- Other

Step 4: The Visa Interview



- Be prepared.
- Dress smartly and be on time.
- Be assertive
 - Eye contact
 - Speak loudly and clearly
 - Answer questions fully
- Anticipate questions and think through answers
 - Reasons for studying, major, choice of school
 - Ties to home
- Be honest at all times
 - relatives out of Nigeria, info about finances

Potential Delays



- Delays on side of Consular office
 - visa appointments delay.
- Delays on your side
 - Out Dated or inadequate bank statement
 - Non-certified or incomplete documentation(in the case of photocopies)

Work permission on F-1 Visa



- Allowed to work on-campus only part-time during school (not more than 20hrs/wk) and full-time during holidays (not more than 40 hrs/wk)
- Work meant to supplement and not as primary source of funding
- No off-campus work or internships without prior immigration permission

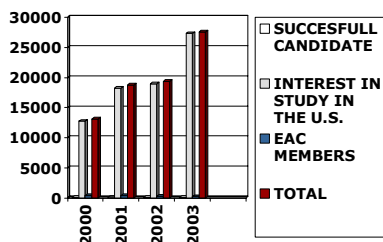
Work permission after graduation

- Optional Practical Training: OPT/CPT is one year of work in your field of study after graduation
- Must apply through immigration for OPT permission
- After OPT/CPT, you must return to your country of residence, even if you are applying for another type of visa
- Always consult your International Students Office on campus with any work or visa questions

Length of your student visa

- F-1 visas may be granted for two years despite duration of degree program.
- Your visa is valid for the duration of study as long as you remain in the US.
- If you leave the US during your first two years, you do not need to apply for a new student visa.
- If you leave the US after two years, you must apply for a new visa in your home country, bringing a new I-20 and docs to show you have been a full-time student in good standing and with adequate financial support to continue.

EAC SUCCESS STATISTICS



Dependents – F-2 Visas

- Spouses and children are dependents if proven with marriage and birth certificates
- Dependents must apply for their own visas with their own passports and I-20s or be on your I-20
- Dependents are not guaranteed visas even if you are granted yours.



Questions?

- Thank you for attending.
- Please let us know if you have been granted a visa and plan to attend pre-departure orientation in July.



USEFUL INFORMATION

- REFERENCES:
 - <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>
 - Consular Section (visas)
 - educationusa.gov
- Contacts:
 - Educational Advising Center, 2630933 2, Broad Street Lagos
